

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ARTICLE ON GAMSAKHURDIA

REF: (A) MOSCOW 11265, (B) MOSCOW 11019

SUMMARY: ARTICLE IN "LITERATURNAYA GAZETA" OF MAY 24
DETAILS CHARGES AGAINST GAMSAKHURDIA AND CHARGES FORMER
EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY BELOUSOVITCH WITH WORKING FOR
THE CIA.

1. LONGEST AND MOST INTERESTING ARTICLE TO APPEAR IN
THE AFTERMATH OF THE RECENT TRIALS IS ENTITLED "SHADOW
IN THE DESERT", DATELINED TBILISI, SIGNED BY GURAM
GLDANELI AND PUBLISHED ON PAGE 14 OF "LITERATURNAYA
GAZETA" OF MAY 24. FOLLOWING ALONG THE LINES OF THE
TV FILM OF ZVIAD GAMSAKHURDIA'S
"CONFESSION" (REF A), IT PRAISES HIS FATHER, A WELL-
KNOWN GEORGIAN WRITER, AND ASCRIBES THE SON'S INCREASING
DISAFFECTION WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF
HIS LACK OF SUCCESS AS A NOVICE AUTHOR PLUS A SUSCEPT-
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IBILITY TO FOREIGN RADIO BROADCASTS, WHICH ARE DESCRIBED
AS SLANDERING THE USSR AND ATTEMPTING TO APPEAL TO
NATIONALISTIC FEELINGS IN GEORGIA.

2. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE PARAGRAPHS REFERRING
TO IGOR BELOUSOVITCH FOLLOWS: "THE TASK OF 'BRINGING
TO FRUITION' THESE ANTI-SOVIETS (I.E., GAMSAK-

HURDIA AND KOSTAVA), WHO WERE ALREADY RIPE FOR USE, WAS ENTRUSTED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN STATES, IN PARTICULAR TO FIRST SECRETARY IGOR BELOUSOVITCH OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN THE USSR. HE BECAME ACQUAINTED 'QUITE BY CHANCE' IN MOSCOW WITH ZVIAD, WHO WAS RECOMMENDED TO HIM AS A PHILOLOGIST AND SPECIALIST IN AMERICAN LITERATURE OF THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURIES. 'OH', SAID THIS MAECENAS FROM THE CIA WHO WAS ARMED WITH DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY --'THIS IS GREAT, I HAVE A LOT OF BOOKS WHICH WILL INTEREST YOU.' AND THE NEXT DAY, IN THE UNDERPASS UNDER KUTUZOVSKIY AVENUE, NEAR THE UKRAINA HOTEL, HE HANDED ZVIAD --NO, NOT THE WORKS OF WHITMAN AND ELIOT, WHICH ZVIAD HAD AT ONE TIME READ ENTHUSIASTICALLY- BUT A WHOLE PILE OF TEXTS PUBLISHED BY THE FASCIST-TYPE PUBLISHERS 'POSEV', 'IMKA-PRESS', 'THE HERZEN FUND'-- BOOKS BY THE MONARCHIST-FASCIST-CHAUVINIST SOLZHENITSYN, AND A LOT OF OTHER ANTI-SOVIET TRASH, INCLUDING SOME WHICH CONTAINED INSTRUCTIONS FOR 'MAKING AN ORGANIZATIONAL BEGINNING TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SOVIET STATE.'"

3. COMMENTING ON THE ALLEGED ANGER AND INDIGNATION EXPRESSED BY PEOPLE PRESENT AT THE TRIAL, GLDANELI CONTINUES: "MANY SAID THAT THESE TWO OUGHT NOT TO BE ON TRIAL ALONE, THAT A HEAVY BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTS IS BORNE BY EVERY KIND OF BELOUSOVITCH UNCLASSIFIED

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WHO HAD PROVOKED AND ENCOURAGED THEM, WHO HAD SUPPLIED ZVIAD WITH SLANDEROUS MATERIALS AND HAD INFLAMED HIS OWN SICK CONCEIT, PROMISING HIM 'WORLD FAME.'"

4. THE ARTICLE GIVES AN EXTENSIVE QUOTATION FROM A STORY BY DAVID SHIPLER OF THE NY TIMES ABOUT HIS INTERVIEW WITH GAMSAKHURDIA, IN WHICH SHIPLER DESCRIBES HIM "AS AN ARDENT GEORGIAN NATIONALIST WHO LEADS A VERY DANGEROUS EXISTENCE." SHIPLER IS THEN LINKED WITH FORMER NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT ALFRED FRIENDLY, JR., AS "FOREIGNERS ABUSING OUR HOSPITALITY", WHO USED THEIR MEETINGS WITH GAMSAKHURDIA "TO PUBLISH VARIOUS SLANDEROUS FABRICATIONS, WHICH THEY ATTRIBUTED TO THE PERSONS THEY WERE INTERVIEWING. AS FAR AS SHIPLER'S INSINUATIONS ARE CONCERNED, FOR EXAMPLE, AS ZVIAD STATED DURING HIS TRIAL, THEY 'HAD TO LEAD TO MY ARREST, WHICH WOULD BE A CONVENIENT OCCASION FOR AMERICAN AND OTHER WESTERN PROPAGANDA TO SPREAD NEW FABRICATIONS ON THEIR FAVORITE THEME OF VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION.'"

5. COMMENT: AS WITH GAMSAKHURDIA'S TELEVISION PER-

FORMANCE (WHICH A SOVIET EMPLOYEE OF THE EMBASSY
CONFIDED UPSET HER GEORGIAN INTELLECTUAL FRIENDS IN
MOSCOW), THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS PIECE SEEMS TO BE
TO EXPLAIN HOW THE SON OF A RESPECTED GEORGIAN WRITER
COULD "FALL TO SUCH DEPTHS." THE REFERENCES TO NEW
YORK TIMES BUREAU CHIEF SHIPLER MARK THE FIRST MAJOR
ATTACK AGAINST HIM IN CONNECTION WITH THE GAMSAKHURDIA
CASE. MATLOCK

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